



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 7 - Number 1

April, 1973

NEXT SERIES BALLOT ENCLOSED

CCMS members are encouraged to return the enclosed ballot which will determine the next series of medals to begin in April, 1974. Members should read the CCMS MAILBAG for interesting and contrasting viewpoints that may help bring about a better choice in the voting process.

Over half of the nominations received were for the CCMS Board of Director's recommendations for the proposed "American Catholic Heritage Series." However, a large number of those nominating for this series objected to any famous persons being commemorated simply because they were Catholic! This is an excellent and valid opinion. From many of these letters it was expressed that the proposed American Catholic Heritage Series should be primarily a history of the Church, its founders, leaders, organization and its important cathedrals and shrines.

It was also the consensus that nearly all laity be ruled out. It was feared that a few famous Catholic people were of questionable background and would not be deserving of commemoration in such a noble series that would include famous martyrs, cardinals and other American saints. Without naming names for example, we

can remember some of the personalities in the entertainment and sports field that were mentioned in our last NEWSLETTER.

The recent nominating campaign has shown that a large percentage of our membership still prefer traditional and religious types of medals. After the majority who favored the proposed "American Catholic Heritage Series," the balance of the nominations were highly segmented into many small groups favoring many and diverse Biblical subjects. Others were of famous saints and martyrs. One such idea that would make a fine series of medals would be the "Thirty Doctors of the Church Series". For those not familiar, the title of Doctor is bestowed on only those favored few who gave so much to the cause of Christianity that only thirty have been so named for this highest of honors in the past 2,000 years!

The Doctors of the Church were great ecclesiastical writers of eminent learning and endowed with a high degree of sanctity — truly Princes of the Church and our faith. All were Saints and some of those familiar are: St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. Gregory the Great, St. Basil the Great, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Francis de Sales, St. Bonaventure, St. Peter Damian, St. Bede the Venerable, St. John Chrysostom and St. Thomas Aquinas.

While there are presently thirty Doctors of the Church, members can indicate whether they would prefer to commemorate all thirty or select by ballot their favorite twelve or twenty-four as an example.

Members voting for this or any subject should indicate the desired number of medals they would like to see in their chosen series.



GOLD STERLING ERROR REPLACEMENT MEDAL

Our sister organization, The Catholic Art Guild, has graciously made it possible for CCMS members to obtain a very special medal. This is the beautiful gold on sterling First Station Medal of the Guild's 14 Station Series. Only 400 were struck and many were discovered not to have serial numbers. The remaining medals are of the numbered variety and are uncalled for. Each medal is 500 grains of silver in 39 mm size with 24-Karat gold plate. The gold plating is 14 times heavier than the minimum U.S. Government standard for gold plated jewelry. Purchaser may have option of having the medal displayed in the standard plush presentation case or in the Lucite desk easel. The price is still only \$19.00 each or two for \$36.00. At present there are less than fifty left. A special order form has been enclosed for member's convenience.

IN THE MAILBAG

NEW CCMS SERIES COMMENTS

Please don't degrade the series by bringing up common historical figures. You then lower yourself to the level of some of the other less successful commemorative groups.

I suggest Old and New Testament figures or events such as martyrs of Christendom. Please print this as I would like the support of other CCMS members.

Gerald Katz (0552)
of Ohio

Your proposed series will eulogize Catholics in any endeavor. My choice would be saints, prophets and other Old Testament figures.

Charles Farley (1180)
of Louisiana

Your proposed series sounds like you would like to change the CCMS into the NCS (National Commemorative Society). I say stay with saints or popes.

C. Pucciarello (1685)
of New Jersey

Traditional Catholic medals only! Not laity, sports or movie personalities! Shame!

Frank Nayda (0037)
of California

I am pleased with suggestion of the American Heritage Series. For a future series, I suggest a series of the twenty ecumenical councils of the church.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Stephen Anderl (0098)
of Wisconsin

The American Catholic Heritage Series is fine with me.

Rev. C. Lane (1147)
of New York



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 7 - Number 2

June, 1973

AMERICAN CATHOLIC HERITAGE SERIES VOTED IN

By majority vote the members of the CCMS have chosen the American Catholic Heritage Series as the subject for the next group of medals. This series will begin in April, 1974.

Before that first medal is issued in the new series, the CCMS Board of Directors will be laying the groundwork for the entire series. The Directors will work closely with the membership in making the final decisions as to some of the subjects chosen and the number of medals desired. In the months to come, there will be more balloting and proposals will be offered in the NEWSLETTER for the consideration of all interested members.

Of special interest to the CCMS Directors was the question of cases versus albums. In response to our questionnaire we found that members preferred the present twelve medal presentation cases over albums by a nearly three to one ratio. Members also showed a preference for the series to be rather limited. The interpretation received by the Directors was this: Members believed that to do justice to such a grand project such as the American Catholic Heritage Series, it should involve at least forty-eight

medals. At the same time many members, who will be retiring, expressed their fears that they may not be able to continue a few years from now. It was suggested that the American Catholic Heritage Series be divided into, for example, four groups of twelve medals each. This would make it possible for members unable to continue, the convenient option of resigning at the end of one of the groupings. The fear of having a broken set of medals would then be eliminated.

The CCMS Board of Directors suggest the following proposals:

1. The American Catholic Heritage Series be divided into four groups of twelve medals each. The first group, or series within a series, to be of the Missionary Era. The second group would be the Pioneer Era in establishing the Catholic Church in America. The third group would complete the biographical story of the American Catholic Church. The fourth and final group could commemorate the great cathedrals and shrines of North America.
2. Members will be asked to vote (ballot enclosed) on the first proposal and will be asked to vote on individual subjects in each group of the entire series.

3. Members will be given the option of purchasing the plush twelve medal cases as currently issued, or buying the proposed forty-eight medal album.
4. All medals will have a different obverse and reverse and several famous sculptors will share in designing the entire series. Members are encouraged to submit names of favorite sculptors so that CCMS Directors can promote the style of art they prefer.

PAYMENT SUGGESTIONS

With the eighth medal enclosed, members will note that there are only four more issues left in the beautiful Life of Mary Series. For members who are not paid in full, the advance payment invoice for issues nine and ten is enclosed. For those who would like to make a double invoice-payment, this will pay for the entire series. Members paying off the balance of the series will be allowed a special 5% discount at this time. This way paid-up members will not receive any more invoices until next year.

BALANCE OF CCMS SCHEDULE

The following dates will give members a general idea when they will receive their last four issues in the Life of Mary Series:

August, 1973 — LMS - 9
 October, 1973 — LMS - 10*
 December, 1973 — LMS - 11
 February, 1974 — LMS - 12*

*Denotes issues accompanied by advance payment invoice.

CCMS OFFICE HOURS

Members who wish to call our ac-

counting office or talk to officers should take special notice that for security reasons we do not have a local listing. Our telephone number is: Area Code 216/533-4797. Normal office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For the summer, the hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays only and subject to vacations and varying workloads.

The CCMS, being essentially a mail order organization, has no public sales office. Therefore, members traveling through our area should schedule an appointment at least twenty four hours in advance if they wish to visit with officers or pick up merchandise which is stored at the local bank. These arrangements were found necessary to maintain security and for the protection of employees and their families.

IN THE MAILBAG

Being a completely satisfied member, I want to state again that I will not and never terminate my membership in the CCMS.

*Egon Mauer (1648)
 of West Germany*

I have every medal put out by the CCMS and the Catholic Art Guild to date and I must say it is a pleasure to look at all of their radiant beauty.

*Mr. & Mrs. John Ferdyn (0280)
 of Florida*

I have decided to pay for the remainder of the Life of Mary Series. This is truly a most outstanding series. The CCMS is very fortunate to be able to secure someone as gifted as Mr. Jozsef Vudy (LMS sculptor).

*Joseph Koshan (0994)
 of Ohio*



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 7 - Number 3

August, 1973

CCMS MEDALS ENSHRINED IN NEW FM MUSEUM

All the medallic issues of the Catholic Commemorative Medal Society were placed on permanent display at the new Franklin Mint Museum of Medallic Art. This impressive museum was dedicated July 10th and the ceremonies were attended by officers of our Society.

The new museum is on the grounds adjacent to the Franklin Mint and fronting on U.S. Highway No. 1 which is a short drive southwest of Philadelphia near Media. The 6,000 square foot circular building of white masonry almost startles you as one approaches the area by car from the highway. It seems like a huge flying saucer is parked on the grass next to the mint. But if its outside appearance is "out of this world", then one must see the inside and enjoy the same effect. The exhibits of medallic art are masterfully displayed by colorful lighting and stereophonic music and are truly out of this world. Full credit must be given to the genius of Tim Carter who masterfully created the museum's beautiful displays.

In the museum, there are thirty-eight areas devoted to the many types of medallic issues. Each partitioned area is a miniature gallery exhibiting a common theme. To mention a few; there are the History of the United States, Hall of Presidents, Coins of the Realm, America in Space and Michelangelo.

Our own CCMS medals are displayed in the Our Religious Heritage area of the museum. Here one can

view our Catholic Art Guild and Catholic Commemorative Medal Society issues and enjoy inspiring church music. One can never forget the setting of our 14 Stations mounted in a wall case shaped in the form of a cathedral window while recorded voices softly sing out the Gregorian chants. The mood is even more intensified by the museum having no windows or central lighting. The effect is like being in a darkened theater with lighting for only the stars on stage. Here the stars are medals chosen by critics as the world's finest.

The area devoted to Our Religious Heritage is an exhilarating visual experience for both Guild and Catholic Commemorative Medal Society members. Here one can view fifty-two different sides of CAG and CCMS medals. This total is the largest number of medals displayed for any commemorative society that the Franklin Mint strikes private issues for. We indeed can be proud of this recognition in this *medallic hall of fame*.

We recommend that every member having the opportunity, take time to visit the Franklin Mint Museum of Medallic Art. The museum is open seven days a week to the public and free of charge. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours are noon until 5 p.m. The audio-visual program which takes place in the museum theater is a *must* preceding the tour. The Kaleidoscope of sights, sounds and colors of the patriotic and religious program fire one's emotions. Many leaving the theater were seen with tears in their eyes. It's that kind of experience.

We recommend choosing a weekday when visiting the museum so that a tour of the mint next door can also be enjoyed. Franklin Mint tours are only Monday through Friday. The tours are every half hour starting at 9 a.m. The last morning tour is at 10:30 a.m., then no tours are scheduled until 1 p.m. Tours then resume again in the afternoon every half hour with the last tour at 3:30 p.m.

The Holiday Inn, only two miles down the highway near Media, has nice accommodations for overnight Franklin Mint visitors. Room rates are reasonable and dining facilities are excellent. For room reservations, the Holiday Inn has a toll free number which is 800/621-8670.

Franklin Mint officials estimate over 100,000 people will visit the new museum each year. The museum and tour of the mint require several hours, so plan to spend the entire day at Franklin Center. It's an experience one will never forget.

FEW 14 STATIONS SERIES SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

Our sister organization, The Catholic Art Guild has a few bronze and sterling 14 Stations subscriptions available to CCMS members or their friends. Bronze and silver order forms are enclosed for the convenience of those interested.

Members who have never seen the bronze proofs are really missing something. Many have expressed that the finish is similar to rose gold in appearance. Others say that this subdued color is more appropriate for the mood of the 14 Stations and is easier to look at.

In reality what is on a medal is more important than what it is made out of. It is the art and degree of craftsmanship along with subject matter that ultimately make a great medal. We often place too much emphasis on the intrinsic value such as silver or gold in medal collecting. It must be remembered that million dollar oil paintings are valuable because of their art content and have no relationship to the canvas which is valued in "pennies." We find no Rembrandts painted on slabs of sterling silver! The ana-

logy is for the medal connoisseur to rediscover the ageless tradition of bronze in art that dates back some 5,000 years.

PROPOSALS FOR NEW SERIES RECEIVE LANDSLIDE VOTE

The four proposals for the forthcoming American Catholic Heritage Series were unanimously approved by the voting membership. Members may refer to our June, 1973 NEWSLETTER if they wish to review the contents of the proposals as suggested by the CCMS Board of Directors. Of the total amount of ballots received, only thirty-one were not in favor.

There have been a number of members who are not favorable about part of the series commemorating North American churches and shrines. The Directors feel another ballot should be taken before long to settle this issue to the satisfaction for the majority of members.

IN THE MAILBAG

In reference to the forthcoming American Catholic Heritage Series, would like to know in advance to be allowed to nominate persons and events for the series.

Mary Joann Root (067)
of Michigan

With the next issue members will receive a nomination form for The Missionary Era part of the new series. With the members' use of the ballot box and expert advice of ecclesiastical historians, a well planned series is assured.

I am sure that the CCMS Board of Directors have the best of heart for members of the CCMS so that any medals they approve of will be right with me.

Frank Povondra (006)
of Connecticut

I have been very happy with my medals. There are none I do not appreciate.

Rev. Joseph Cassidy (009)
of New Jersey



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 7 — Number 4

October, 1973

NOMINATION FORMS FOR NEW SERIES ENCLOSED

The American Catholic Heritage Series will begin in April of next year. The first part of that series as approved by the membership will be of the Missionary Era. The success and growth of the Catholic Church in America owes a great debt to those courageous and daring men and women who were first to carry the Cross into the vast unknown continent of North America.

Among the vigorous and energetic men of the cloth, no sacrifice was too great if souls could be won for God. Within the area that finally became the United States, 116 of these missionaries were martyred. All of their names have been submitted to the Holy See for consideration for canonization.

To assist our members in preparing their nominations we offer twelve names and brief biographical sketches for consideration:

FATHER DE PADILLA (? — 1542)

Father Juan de Padilla was America's first martyr. After converting numerous Indians in New Mexico and Kansas, Father de Padilla was struck down by arrows in an Indian ambush. After chasing his companions to safety, the brave Franciscan priest stood his ground and acted as a decoy which ultimately led to his death. As arrow after arrow pierced his body, he finally slumped to the ground, his blood

staining the rich soil of American. Ironically, this hallowed ground is almost the geographical center of the United States. The great nation that was to grow around that grave was to be his lasting monument.

SAINT ISAAC JOGUES (1607 — 1646)

Saint Isaac Jogues, a Jesuit priest, was one of America's first martyrs and first saints. Father Jogues converted many Mohawks and Iroquois in the Great Lakes region. It was with the Mohawks that Father Jogues suffered so terribly and finally was put to death by their tomahawks.

When Father Jogues was captured by a group of Mohawks, he was beaten with sticks; his hair and nails were torn out; his fingers were chewed by Indian women and his thumb cut off. For nearly a year after this ordeal, he was forced into slavery by his Mohawk tormentors. Eventually he escaped and returned to France. His mutilated hands were almost useless to a point that holding a chalice during Mass was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Pope Urban III conferred on him the rare privilege of offering Mass knowing that his fingers were nearly useless. The Holy Father observed, "It would be unjust if a martyr of Christ were not allowed to drink the Blood of Christ."

After regaining his health, Father Jogues pleaded with his superiors to return to the Mohawks. He argued that few knew their language and customs as he did. Winning consent, he returned knowing it was his destiny never to return to France. Thus the

blood of one more missionary pioneer enriched the soil of the United States. "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christianity," is an old Catholic saying.

SAINT JOHN DE BREBEUF (1593 – 1649)

Saint John de Brebeuf, another Jesuit missionary is a story parallel to St. Jogues. To describe how he was subjected to sadistic torture is tantamount to utter horror which we will spare the reader. It was on such sacrifices that the Church and America have been built.

FATHER KINO (1645 ? – 1711)

One of the greatest and most versatile missionaries of all was the Jesuit priest, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino. He was a noted explorer, astronomer, cartographer, mission builder, ranchman, farmer and journalist.

Father Kino was a master builder. His mission church of San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, Arizona is considered the finest example of Spanish Renaissance Architecture in the United States. Another nearby mission designed by Father Kino is the Mission Tumacacori which is now a national monument.

In the early days of the Southwest, good maps were scarce and unreliable. Father Kino, seeing the need, created the most accurate maps of the period. He was the first cartographer to declare that Baja California was a peninsula and show it that way on his maps. His reputation as a map maker brought him fame throughout the civilized world.

Father Kino, of Austrian parentage, may have aspired to become an "American Da Vinci" had he pursued only the arts, but the pursuit of souls was his main obsession. Probably no man before or since has spent as much time in the saddle traveling from place to place in our far west as Father Kino. Today he is best known as the "Padre on Horseback".

FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA (1713 – 1784)

We are all familiar with the Franciscan priest known as Father Junipero Serra. Probably no man has been more important in the history and development of California than Father Serra. He founded nine important missions in California, and his successors founded another twelve. It was around these missions that the great cities of California grew — cities like San Diego, Santa Clara, San Gabriel, Capistrano, Carmel, Ventura, San Luis Obispo and San Francisco which later became the key areas of colonization in the development of California.

Like Father Kino, Father Serra was a restless traveler. He constantly traveled between his missions preaching and baptizing along the way. Converting the Indians was not enough for Father Serra. He was also interested in showing them a better way of life. He taught his Indian friends how to sow and harvest. He showed them with his own hands how to build and use forges, mills and wineries. Indeed Californians today owe much to this little man of God who paved the way to making their state one of the most prosperous areas of the entire world.

FATHER ANTONIO MARGIL (1657 – 1726)

Ranking in importance with Serra and Kino as the greatest of the Spanish missionaries is Father Antonio Margil. Like St. Paul, this Franciscan priest traveled over vast distances from Central America to Texas and Louisiana. He always walked barefooted and fasted every day of the year. He never ate meat or fish and applied other instruments of penance to himself unmercifully. He allowed himself very little time for sleep and spent most of every night in prayer.

For Father Margil, his efforts for the salvation of Indians and colonists were crowned with monumental success . . . and Father Margil left monuments also. He founded the Mission of San Jose near San Antonio, Texas. It is the largest of the five San Antonio missions and is known as the

"Queen of the Missions." Father Margil, priest, scholar and missionary, was a giant of a man we Americans should not forget.

FATHER MARQUETTE (1637 – 1675)

Nearly every school boy is familiar with Marquette and Joliet and their bold journeys of exploration. They were the first to really explore the great Mississippi River system. Father Jacques Marquette like other Jesuit priests, kept an accurate record of his travels. Men who followed in his steps benefited by his copious records, maps and journals.

Along with his layman-friend Joliet, and five other companions, Father Marquette set out on one of the most fantastic voyages of all times. In nothing more than two frail birch-bark canoes, these courageous men paddled and portaged over 2,500 miles of unexplored territory. Along the way, Father Marquette made friends with the Indians and introduced to them the Word of God. Brave and tireless men like Father Marquette are examples of the material of which our American pioneers were made.

FATHER LOUIS HENNEPIN (1640 – 1701)

The first white man to discover, explore and depict Niagara Falls was Father Louis Hennepin. He was another Franciscan missionary-explorer who gave his life to spreading the Gospel to the pagan Indians of the Great Lakes region. Often following in the footsteps of Marquette and La Salle, Father Hennepin was undoubtedly one of the most famous explorers of the seventeenth century.

SISTER ROSE DUCHESNE (1769 – 1852)

Blessed Rose Duchesne, A Visitation Nun who later joined the Order of the Sacred Heart, is a source of pride for all American women. This valiant woman overcame the many

difficulties and hardships of the frontier to become one of the greatest contributors to the growth of the early American Catholic Church. She founded the first free school west of the Mississippi. Among others, she founded a boarding school, orphanage, novitiate and an academy all in the St. Louis area.

Ever since Sister Duchesne was a young nun in France, her ambition was to work among the Indians in America. It was not until she was seventy-two years old that her wish came true. Her reputation as a founder and organizer were well known, but now that was all behind her. She set off across the prairies to Kansas to work and teach among the Indians.

She had opened the road where others might walk on it, and the success hidden from her eyes was well seen later by others who rejoiced in the institutions she left behind for posterity. And it was so that Pope Pius XII in 1940 completed steps for her beatification.

FATHER CHARLES NERINCKX (1761 – 1824)

In 1804 Father Charles Nerinckx arrived in America from Belgium. Bishop Carroll assigned him to Kentucky where his district covered nearly half of the state. Like other earlier missionaries, he lived in the saddle. He was also known as the "Apostle of Kentucky".

There was not a year of his apostolate that was not marked by the organization of a new congregation or the building of a new church. The incredible hardships and vast distances of the frontierland made these no easy tasks. His well-deserved fame reached Baltimore where Bishop Carroll recommended the Holy See appoint him Bishop of New Orleans, but Father Nerinckx refused the honour.

Besides his missionary work, Father Nerinckx's most cherished work was with Catholic education for children. To secure more permanency for this special field he founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Loretto in 1812.

FATHER PETER DE SMET (1801 – 1873)

It has been said that the best friend the American Indian ever had was Belgium born Father Peter De Smet. He is considered to be the greatest missionary to the Indians the United States has ever known. It can also be said that there was never a man the Indians had more love and respect for. There was hardly an Indian tribe on the Western plains that was not familiar to the sight of the blackrobed Jesuit priest. It has been estimated that Father De Smet traveled over a quarter of a million miles during his career preaching and working with his Indian friends. He baptized uncounted thousands of Indians during his travels.

During his lifetime, Father De Smet was America's foremost authority on American Indians. He was recognized by United States Congressmen and the Secretary of War as a peace negotiator. He was often called in to serve as peacemaker in ending wars between the United States and different Indian tribes. The course of history in the building of the West would not have been the same had it not been for a man named Father De Smet.

SISTER BLANDINA SEGALÉ (1850 – 1941)

One of the most gifted and extraordinary woman pioneers of the West was Sister Blandina Segalé, Sister of Charity. She was born in Italy and came to the United States with her parents when she was still a child. After joining the Cincinnati Sisters of Charity, she was assigned to the Colorado town of Trinidad.

Sister Blandina was a tireless worker, teacher and organizer. She founded the first public school there and later in Albuquerque, she founded a school and hospital. She spent twenty one years on the Western frontier most of it during the period referred to as the days of the "Wild West".

Sister Blandina typifies many of the scores of Catholic nuns who advanced West with the pioneers. No all had her boundless energy, but all had her faith and courage. They went West not to seek fame or fortune, only to save souls. The names of many of the Sisters have been lost to history but America will always remember the important role they played in the building of a new country.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The CCMS Board of Directors have stressed several times before in this column that the Society belongs to its members. The choice of subject matter is an inherent right of the membership. The democratic process is the only way to insure a unified Society in purpose and spirit . . . The end product is a deep sense of heartfelt satisfaction and pleasure that comes with appreciation of history and art in medallion form.

Many months, sometimes a year of preparation and research go into laying the foundation of a new medallion series. The quality and greatness of any new series is always reflected by the careful groundwork and research that precedes the release of the first issue.



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 7 - Number 5

December, 1973

BALLOTS ENCLOSED FOR THE CATHOLIC MISSIONARY SERIES

With the enclosed eleventh medal in the Life of Mary Series, members will find the CCMS Ballot for determining the subjects for the forthcoming Catholic Missionary Series. As the news of the new series filters out, we are getting inquiries from school teachers, museums and members of the Catholic Hierarchy. Bicentennial interest in the Catholic contribution to America's 200th Anniversary is running high. Parochial educators see the American Catholic Heritage Series as a most desirable educational aid and tool in stimulating interest in the classroom.

Approximately sixty vacated CCMS memberships have been accumulated over the past two years. This was done to form a reserve for the great influx of orders expected for certain issues and series for the American Bicentennial. Some of these medals will be sold on a first come basis. Some will be donated and many will be loaned for displays. These medals will promote good public relations. Members will agree that these historical medals will also provide the American public with a knowledge of the fine works created by the Catholic Commemorative Medal Society.

200,000 NEW MEDAL COLLECTORS LAST YEAR!

Yes, according to the Franklin Mint third quarter report to stockholders, there were 160,000 new collectors to date with an increase of approximately 10,000 new collectors each month coming into the hobby. While not all of these are medal collectors, the

Franklin Mint also produces other art items such as commemorative plates, ingots and prints. The great majority though are medal collectors in one way or another.

To date, the Franklin Mint has an astounding 800,000 established collectors on their mailing lists. No one knows the total numbers for all the other private mints and commemorative groups around the country, but it must be in the millions. The hobby has seen a tremendous and phenomenal growth in the past three years.

In response to the fantastic growth of our hobby, we have heard that a new newspaper catering exclusively to medal collectors will make its appearance in the very near future. For many years often the only exposure the booming medal collecting hobby got was a few condensed news items appearing on the back pages of the two leading numismatic publications. In fact, when we sent in news releases of our famous Cardinal Spellman Memorial Medal, one of these papers did not even report on it! These are excellent newspapers, but they are too coin oriented. It is thus a growing disadvantage for medal collectors to establish a good market place for buying and selling in what is basically a "coin newspaper." When subscription information details are known, members will be notified in this column.

TIME TO ORDER CASES FOR NEXT SERIES

Order forms are also enclosed for the Twelve Medal Presentation Case which will hold the entire forthcoming Catholic Missionary Series. The cases will be delivered in April in time to receive the first medal in the new series

that begins in April, 1974

This case will hold all regular issues for the next two years. Please note that the Society can only guarantee delivery of orders received postmarked no later than February 28, 1974.

A small quantity of these cases are available in an all red interior and red leatherette exterior. This striking display case comes without the familiar CCMS Society Seal or any other identification. Here is an opportunity for members to display any of their other favorite silver dollar sized medals in a new and beautiful setting.

Extra Lucite octagonal holders are available for 40¢ each, or three for \$1.00 postpaid or \$3.75 per dozen and can be shipped conveniently in the empty case.

The availability of an album has been postponed indefinitely due to the reluctance of manufacturers accepting new accounts due to many material shortages. There has been a shortage of glue and plastic for some time.

MEDAL TARNISH ELIMINATED BY NEW COATING PROCESS

Since the beginning of 1973 and with the Presentation Medal, the Franklin Mint has been applying a new space age coating to protect our silver and bronze medals. Medal tarnish should now be a thing of the past. Naturally, there will be a number of collectors who will be disappointed because they like the patina and coloring that comes with age on old silver and bronze medals. On the whole, the majority of collectors will welcome this news.

The new acrylic coating is baked on in a finish that is perfectly clear and so invisible that there is no real way of distinguishing a coated medal from one that is not. Upon close examination, if one wants to be highly critical, you may find a pinpoint bubble or two in the coating surface. When they do occur, these "microscopic imperfections" in no way suggest a lowering of quality or value when a medal is coated. The advantages and peace of mind of not having to worry about your medals tarnishing far outweigh any minor or technical shortcomings.

Over the past years we have seen and heard of many medal sales transactions. Never once have we known of any medal or set of medals selling for a penny less due to medal tarnish. It is just not a factor with older established collectors. However, many of the newer generation of medallists seem to prefer the just-struck appearance of proof medals and this has led to the search for a permanent means of eliminating tarnish.

Although tarnish is hardly ever a factor in the sale of medals, badly fingerprinted specimens will turn away most potential purchasers — Our members are to be cautioned that even though all medals are now coated, fingerprints are still to be avoided at all costs. While the acidity of fingerprints may not eat into the proof surface as before, the greasy consistency of fingerprints acts like sticky flypaper trapping all kinds of gritty abrasives. The damage here would come by trying to wipe off dirt impregnated fingerprints. In doing this, scratches may occur all the way through the protective coating and consequently may cause only this area to darken in time. The moral? — Keep your medals snugly tucked inside their protective holders and in the presentation case designed for them.

When showing off your collection to noncollecting friends, caution them right away not to take the medals out of the holders. Most people don't know that proof medals are not to be touched and very often they will have them out of the holder and innocently be fingering them in every which way. This can happen very quickly when talking to a few friends and you are momentarily distracted. Another thing is to ask them to be very careful not to drop the medal onto the floor. A good policy would be to show your medals in a room where there are rugs on the floor. This will cushion any accidental falls if the medals are dropped on the floor.

PRINCE OF PEACE PENDANTS ARE SOLD OUT !

We wish to inform the membership that the Prince Of Peace Pendant Medals in both solid gold and in silver have been sold out for some time. We wish to thank the membership for their making this issue a success.



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

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EXCITING NEW MEDAL DESIGN TO INTRODUCE NEW SERIES

Caesar Rufo, the talented Franklin Mint staff sculptor, is working toward the completion of the first medal model for the forthcoming Catholic Missionary Series. He is one of six sculptors chosen thus far for the series. Father Juan de Padilla, America's very first martyr, is the subject of the first issue of twelve subjects recently voted upon by the membership. It will be the introduction to the immensely fascinating story of our own American Catholic heritage.

Mr. Rufo said that he was extremely proud to be launching such an important series and he wanted to do something original and different. While doing extensive research and preliminary sketches on the martyr, he said, "The idea struck me like a bolt of lightning, almost like a vision." The mental picture that formed was of the scene showing Father de Padilla slumped on the ground as arrow after arrow pierced his body. This was after the priest sent his companions off to safety made possible by his acting as a decoy. This narrative was given by the surviving witnesses. What is different is that Mr. Rufo saw this mental picture in the form of a stained glass window. At the top of this "window" from a cloud above, we see God with outstretched arms about to receive him into the Kingdom of Heaven. The cathedral window effect so overpowers your imagination, your mind then begins to "visualize" the colors of stained glass.

So for possibly the first time ever, we will have a medal in a new art form as will be created on the reverse side. The obverse proudly exhibits a strong

inspirational portrait of this uncommon man who shall forever be known as Protomartyr of America. For it was his blood, the first to fall, to enrich the soil of America. Ironically, this happened near Herington, Kansas, almost the geographical center of the United States. The great nation that was to grow around that hallowed grave was to be his lasting monument.

NEW INVOICE ENCLOSED FOR CATHOLIC MISSIONARY SERIES

Spiraling inflation over the past seven years has finally forced the CCMS Board of Directors to pass a resolution increasing the basic cost per medal. Through careful budgeting and cost cutting over this period we have been among the lowest in our field with the same comparative level of mintage limits. Due to increased costs in materials, labor and silver which has recently hit \$7.00 per ounce, other commemorative issuers are now charging \$20.00 per medal. However, our prices with the modest increase will still be approximately half of that amount.

Members may be curious why the CCMS has such a competitive advantage. The main reason is our good fortune in having a perpetual contract with the Mint favoring us with a 25% discount and a cushioned cost scale for rising or falling silver prices. This favored status type of contract was only available to a few outside sponsors back in the very earliest years of our Mint. This is why our sister organization, The Catholic Art Guild formed in 1968, has to charge higher prices as it has a closed end contract for each series and does not enjoy special discounts.

The second competitive advantage our Society enjoys is its very make-up and nature. The CCMS is a self-sustaining lay organization. It is not profit oriented to the degree that it invests and owns property because it has none. The Society owns no real estate, property or securities. The Society simply maintains sufficient equity for salaries, wages, rent and other business expenses to preserve the goals of our charter.

The goal of the Society is a kind of ministry - the glorifying of God through the medallic arts. Compelled by a sense of duty and dedication, members of the Society in concert have their artistic creations etched into the halls of history. This, then, is our legacy for generations to come.

With the modest additional cost of less than \$2.00 per medal, the Society will be able to continue to commission the finest name sculptors, continue the high excellence of the minted proof and provide good services for its members by an adequately paid administrative force. As it was, we have had to depend too much on volunteers to supplement our work force of seven employees.

The March 2, 1974 postal increase of 20% on first class postage was a big determining factor in having a separate charge addition to the new invoice. In 1967 when the CCMS was founded, our prices per medal for mailing was 15¢, now it is 30¢ or double and the Postal Service warns of further increases. The mailing cartons which then was 4¢ each now is 13¢. The increases go on and on.

With the recent volatile and insane character of world silver prices, we have provided a surcharge line on the new invoice should it become necessary to use it. When the Society formed in 1967, silver was \$1.30 per ounce which is approximately the amount of silver each of our medals contained at that time. In 1968, silver increased to the \$2.50 range and we had our first increase or surcharge. Incidentally, this was the last time we had an increase or surcharge which was nearly six years ago! With silver bullion value per medal reaching \$7.00 at the time of this writing, no one can honestly predict the final outcome of the comm-

odity silver market. Some experts say it is shortlived, others say it will compromise itself after the speculators take their profits. The CCMS Directors may even consider delaying the start of the new series until the market settles down. It would be foolish to get caught up in a speculator's manipulation of a commodity falsely raised instead of by honest industrial consumption and demand by silver users.

IN THE MAILBAG

POPE PAUL VI OFFERS APOSTOLIC BLESSINGS TO CCMS FROM THE VATICAN

Dear Mr. Parent:

The Holy Father has asked me to express his thanks for your kindness in presenting to him two commemorative medals on behalf of the Catholic Commemorative Medal Society.

His Holiness is grateful for these gifts and for the sentiments of devotion and faith which prompted their presentation.

As a sign of his appreciation, the Holy Father imparts to you and your colleagues his Apostolic Blessings.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,
Bishop Benelli

Vatican Secretariat of State

FAMOUS NEWSPAPER WRITER & AUTHOR IS APPRECIATIVE

The work you do is beautiful, I wish you success with the Life of Mary Series. I am most appreciative of the medals you sent me and they are prominently displayed in my home.

Jim Bishop
of Florida

The Medals of the Life of Mary are exquisite and a real joy to own.

Betty Lou Hammargren (0287)
of Minnesota

